



A full and particular account, of the Wonderful Apparition of Mary Nicholson, which appeared to two Men her intimate friends and acquaintance, at a village near Durham, during the late Abunder storm; and an account of her Meditations, after the rope broke.

ON monday July the 29th, the sky was overcast, and at mid-day the sun was obscured, then dreadful flashes of lightning succeeded by tremendous peals of thunder, which made the earth and seas to shake, convinced the most incredulous, that God's judgments were upon the earth. Approaching towards Durham, two men above alluded to, though coming thither by different roads, were suddenly seized with a dreadful panic. By no means being able, to account for the astonishing manner they were held, they both involuntarily betook themselves to prayer. It appeared strange to a person not at a great distance from them both, and who was herding cattle by the road side, that they should fervently pray to God in the open road; scarcely was this conjecture formed, than an universal flame of fire seemed to cover the whole mountain, upon which they stood, and then immediately, a terrific peal of thunder rent the heavens. Scarcely had John —, and David —, proceeded much farther on their road to the village, than the Apparition of the late Mary Nicholson presented herself before them. She had a genteel appearance, clothed in white, and she addressed them with words more than human.

Her appearance being so preternatural, may stagger the belief of many pious christians, but as even the great Dr Johnson gave implicit credit to such phenomena, why may not the account of the shepherd be credited likewise. It may appear to some, that men who may be greatly terrified, at any object which strikes the mind, may by a strong illusion of the imagination, deceive themselves, so as to think they saw and heard these things, though at the same time it was only a deception. Be that as it may, the shepherd declares that he saw Mary Nicholson, and the people of the village believe it, and that she appeared of the same figure, shape, and attitude as when she ascended the second time, after the rope broke, only with this difference, that she was altogether in pure white, and when she spoke, her voice was like a trumpet.

When she related the progress of these two men, going into the village, the following words were spoken, which is now believed by all the village. "I promised before I died to visit you, and I am now come. Remember that all men are to die, and my death is only a short time, before you both. Remember that I sinned in stealing the money from my master, but the sin that was committed, and which prompted me to do so was greater. Before you die, remember the sins of evil speaking, and of swearing, by that God who made you, that nothing would be divulged respecting me. Lies are an abomination to man, but to God they are sins of the deepest die. Remember me, but remember likewise that man is an answer to that God who created him. If they have sinned as thine own conscience can tell thee, repent ere it be too late. Thou shalt see me again soon, if thine iniquities are not repented of." — When these words were spoken, an amazing flash of fire blazed upon the mountain, followed by tremendous thunder, and she disappeared in the midst of the cloud. — When in the attitude of speaking, she continually pointed to her throat, as if to observe the manner she was used at the place of execution.

To the pious christian, these reflections ought to strike deep into the heart and mind; and as the language of Mary Nicholson, at the bottom of the gallows after the rope broke, is strictly applicable to some people, I shall here subjoin them.

"When I left the paths of righteousness, thou, O God, abandoned me: And as if the death I am about to die was not sufficient, yet I am mangled and tortured in dying. Grant me fortitude, O God, to bear this: and I may now be perfect this day, whose heart may not be penetrated with a due sense of their error, and return to God."